

Bracketed and Underlined Claim Amendments for Appl. No. 09/635,778

Please **amend claim 13** as follows:

13. (*Amended*) An apparatus for initializing a series of electronic voting transactions, comprising:

- a. a processor; and
 - b. a memory storing instructions adapted to be executed by said processor to,
 - v. receive [an] a voter registration request message that atomically binds vote authorization data and a blinded unvalidated vote certificate to be validated;
 - vi. determine if the vote authorization data is valid;
 - vii. if the vote authorization data is valid, then to validate the blinded unvalidated vote certificate to obtain a blinded validated vote certificate; and
 - viii. send a voter registration response message to a vote that includes the blinded validated vote certificate atomically bound to the voter registration request message,
- said memory coupled to said processor.